

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT L 00934 182208Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
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R 181215Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7719
INFO AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO
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AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY VICTORIA
CINCPAC
CINCUSNAVEUR
COMIDEASTFOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT LOUIS 0934

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT MP
SUBJECT: MAURITIUS WEEKLY REVIEW - AUGUST 18, 1978 - SUMMARY

REF: PORT LOUIS 904 (DTG 110804Z AUG 78)
PORT LOUIS A-70

1. THE OPPOSITION MAUGITIAN MILITANT MOVEMENT (MMM)
HAS BEEN ATTEMPTING TO SOW SOME DIVISIONS BETWEEN THE PARTNERS
IN THE GOVERNING COALITION BY IMPLYING THAT IT WOULD SUPPORT
A MINORITY LABOR PARTY GOVERNMENT IF LABOR WERE TO
EXPUL THE MAURITIAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PMSD)
FROM THE COALITION. SPEAKING FOR THE GOVERNMENT,
AGRICULTURE MINISTER BOOLELL SAID EXPULSION OF THE
PMSD WAS OUT OF THE QUESTION. PMSD LEADER DUVAL
SAID HIS PARTY CAN DO NOTHING BUT OBSERVE THIS SCENE
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AS SPECTATORS BUT HE SAW NO REASON FOR A BREAK-UP
OF THE COALITION. HE DOUBTED THE MMM'S SINCERITY
IN ITS OFFER TO HELP THE GOVERNMENT SOLVE SOME OF
THE URGENT PROBLEMS OF THE COUNTRY.

2. THREE MORE LABOR PARTY DEPUTIES, INCLUDING THE
MINISTER OF FISHERIES, HAVE ASSOCIATED THEMSELVES

WITH HARISH BOODHOO'S DISSIDENT REFORM MOVEMENT BY APPEARING AT HIS RALLIES IN THE COUNTRYSIDE. BOODHOO HIMSELF CALLED FOR A BOYCOTT OF THE PARTY MEETING AT WHICH THE SECRETARY GENERAL WILL BE ELECTED, NO DOUBT BECAUSE IT IS A FOREGONE CONCLUSION THAT HIS ENEMY KHER JAGATSINGH WILL BE ELECTED TO THE POST FOR THE SEVENTEENTH CONSECUTIVE TIME. OREIGN MINISTER WALTER SAID THE DISSIDENTS ARE "DIGGING THEIR OWN GRAVES" AND HE WOULD BE HAPPY TO ATTEND THEIR FUNERAL.

3. IN A SPEECH TO A "HINDU UNITY" CONFERENCE, PRIME MINISTER RAMGOOLAM MADE A BLATANTLY COMMUNALIST APPEAL TO THE HINDUS TO STICK TOGETHER AND SUPPORT THE LABOR PARTY. HE WARNED THEM THAT DIVISIONS WITHIN THEIR COMMUNITY COULD CAUSE THEM TO LOSE POLITICAL POWER IN THIS COUNTRY, AS HAS HAPPENED IN GUYANA AND FIJI, WHERE HINDUS ARE ALSO IN THE MAJORITY. RAMGOOLAM APPEALED TO THE DEEPEST FEARS OF HIS FELLOW HINDUS WHEN HE WARNED THAT THE HINDUS WOULD BE TURNED BACK INTO "BEGGARS" IF THEY EVER LOST THE REINS OF POWER. AN EDITORIAL IN INDEPENDENT L'EXPRESS DESCRIBED THIS SPEECH AS "APPALLING" AND THE LEADER OF THE MMM OPPOSITION, JUGNAUTH, WHO IS ALSO A HINDU, EXPRESSED HIS "DISGUST," SAYING THIS COMMUNALIST APPEAL SHOWED HOW DESPERATE THE LABOR

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PARTY IS TO RESCUE ITSELF FROM INEVITABLE DEFEAT.
KEELEY

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Message Attributes

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